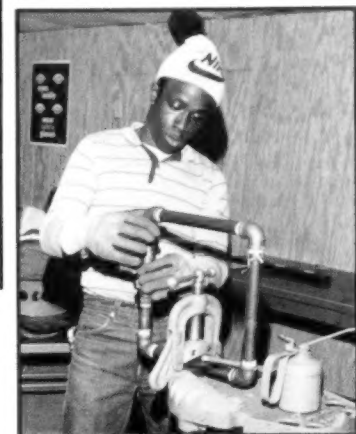
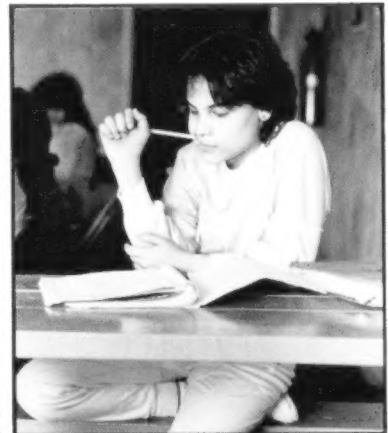
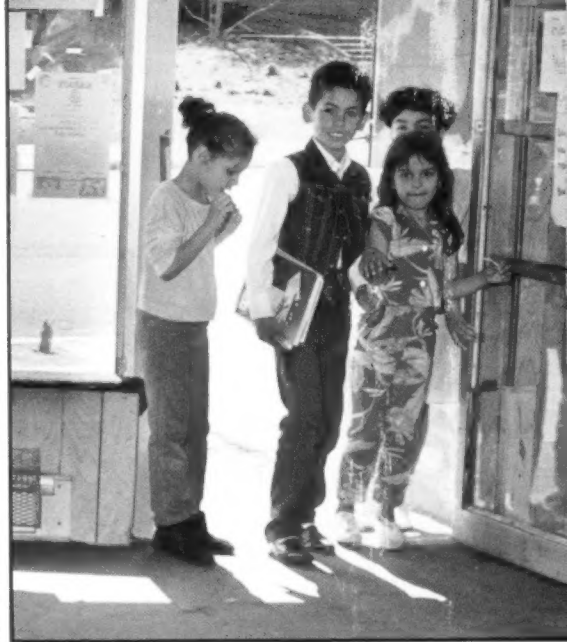
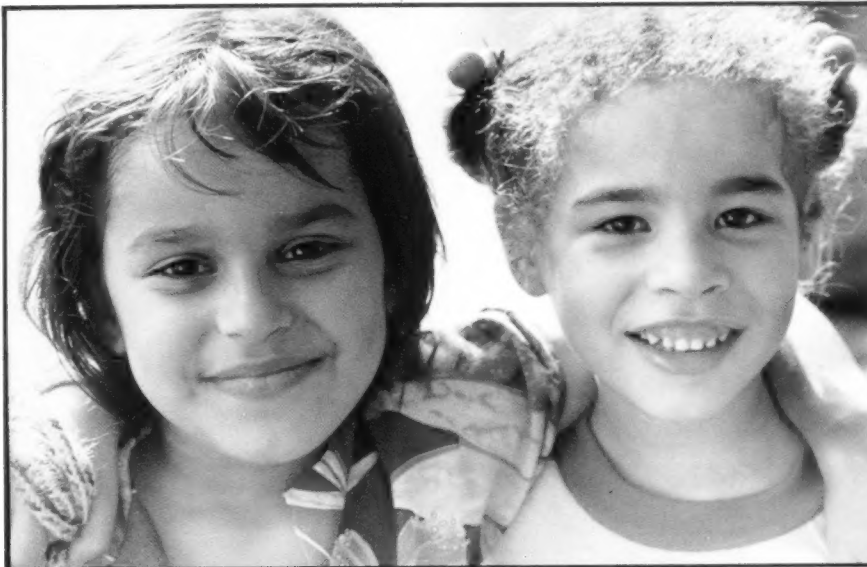
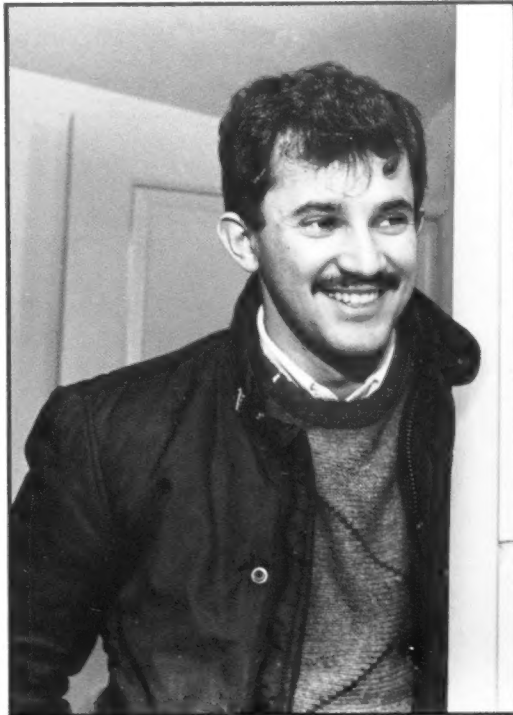


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# La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc.



The following represent La Casa's financial support from both the public and private sector. Our sincerest appreciation for confidence in our programs and generous financial support.

### **Foundation Grants**

Charles Hayden Foundation  
Eisenhower Foundation  
The Florence and John Schumann Foundation  
Turrell Funds  
Victoria Foundation  
Enterprise Foundation

### **Community Funds**

American Baptist Church  
House of Prayer  
Campaign for Human Development  
Newark Neighborhood Ministries  
The Presbyterian Church of Newark  
United Church Board of Homeland Ministries  
United Way of Essex and West Hudson

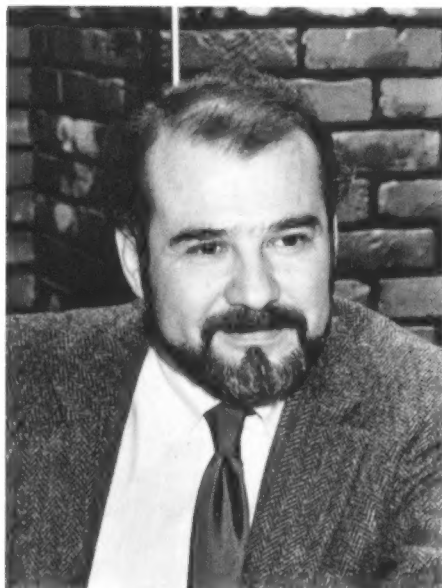
### **Corporations**

Mutual Benefit Insurance Co.  
Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce Inc.  
New Jersey Bell Co.  
Prudential Insurance Co.  
Public Service Electric & Gas Co.  
The Equitable Life Insurance Co.

### **Government Grants**

City of Newark Mayor's Office of Employment and Training/  
Job Training Partnership Act  
New Jersey Department of Human Services/  
Division of Youth & Family Services  
Essex County Department of Citizen Services  
City of Newark Department of Health and Welfare/  
Office of Children  
Essex County Department of Health and Rehabilitation  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs/  
Division of Low Income Energy Conservation  
City of Newark Board of Education  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs/  
Division of Community Development  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs/  
Office of Hispanic Affairs  
New Jersey Department of Education/  
Bureau of Children Nutrition Program  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/  
Office of Human Development Services

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



With a sense of hard-won accomplishment, much enthusiasm and hope for the future, La Casa de Don Pedro is pleased to share this report with friends and supporters.

A strong Board commitment and staff leadership will assume responsibility for the continued administrative and programmatic creativity to meet the needs of a Hispanic population that is growing rapidly. This growth has increased the demand for a broad range of services which will help to improve the quality of life for the families in our community. We will double our efforts to respond to the community and reaffirm the sacred trust placed in us.

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank you for the confidence and support bestowed on us. I pledge to meet the challenges with the same fervor as in the past.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramón Rivera".

Ramón Rivera  
*Executive Director*

# CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

## DAY CARE

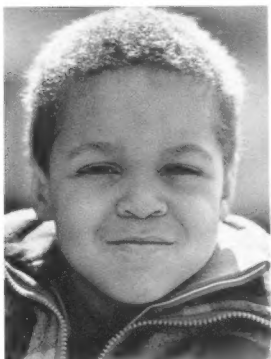
**T**he *Familias Unidas* Day Care Program ensures a homelike atmosphere for children. It is a program that serves low income families residing in Newark with a comprehensive network of child care services. A staff of professionals provide training for preschool children from 3 to 5 year olds with emphasis on bi-lingual, bi-cultural education.

Services include nutritious meals, family services, health education, and recreation. It encourages parent participation through a parent-volunteer plan.

The most recent development is a pre-school music program sponsored by the Parents Advisory Board. The objective is to enhance the children's intellectual, physical, cultural and social development.

A total of 60 children participate in this curriculum, and there is an existing waiting list.

The strong foundation provided at this early age assists the children to better adapt to new educational experiences.

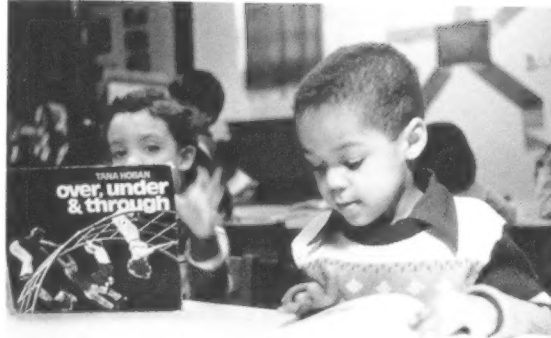




## THE LATCHKEY/ AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH PROJECT

The Latchkey program offers after-school supervision from 3:00–6:00 p.m. to children between the ages of 6–13 whose parents are either working or studying.

La Casa works with 20 children at a time, providing tutoring, recreation, trips, workshops and other supervised activities. During the summer months, the program becomes a summer camp from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.



# YOUTH SERVICES

## YOUTH COUNSELING

**L**a Casa is a *Lead Agency* for Essex County, and as such provides Youth Counseling Services including individual, group, and family counseling; crisis intervention and recreational activities. Since inception of the program thirteen years ago, 2,600 young people have been helped. During the 1984-85 program year, over 200 individuals received services.

The *Job Development Program* includes job development, placement and counseling services for youths 16 to 21 years old. Over one hundred individuals received assistance this year.

## YOUTH CONSTRUCTION TRAINING PROJECT

The Youth Construction Training Project trains young people between the ages of 16 to 21 who are out of school and out-of-work.

A six-month course prepares the youth for construction-related fields such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing and electrical wiring. This course includes on-the-job-training as well as formal class instruction; job referral and placement are available upon completion. This year 60 youth were trained, 35 are currently employed in the private sector.





## YOUTH CRISIS SHELTER AND TRANSITIONAL HOMES

La Casa's Youth Crisis Shelter/Host Home Program provides temporary housing for Family Court referred youth who are abused, neglected, incorrigible and homeless. Services include educational counseling, supportive services, and recreational activities. This year 353 youths between 10 and 18 years old experienced a homelike atmosphere as a result of this program.

## HOST HOMES RUNAWAY PROGRAM

La Casa forms part of a federally funded project to provide housing and counseling for youth referred by the courts, or the Essex County Family Crisis Center.

The purpose of this program is to recruit and train families whose homes serve as temporary shelter. Preventing the institutionalization of troubled youth helps them better adapt to society.

La Casa is part of the Garden State Coalition of Runaway Shelters.



## NEW YOUTH SHELTER/ TRANSITIONAL HOMES PROGRAM

This year La Casa will begin to serve as a shelter for the Division of Youth and Family Services of New Jersey. This shelter will provide six beds in our own facility at 176 Roseville and six beds in the community involving Host Homes. The Host Home families will be carefully selected and trained by La Casa's staff to serve as transitional homes.

## TRUANCY/DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM

In an effort to combat Newark's truancy and dropout problem, La Casa has targeted two schools in the North Ward area for a prevention program. The schools are Barringer Prep and Barringer High.

La Casa has counselors based within the schools in order to facilitate better communication between students, school personnel, and families. Educational, recreational and cultural activities along with individual and group counseling are some of the services offered.

A *Community Task Force* has also been established involving community residents and local businesses to assist La Casa in reducing truancy.



Some of the services include individual and group counseling, self-help groups, life skills and developmental workshops. Alcoholism prevention is introduced at area schools through educational workshops, speakers, literature and informative films.



## ALTERNATIVAS

*Alternativas* is a new alcoholism component of the Youth Services Division with 18 youth currently enrolled. It is designed to help adolescents with alcohol-related problems and educate adults on alcoholism.





# ADULTS, FAMILIES & THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS

## SOCIAL SERVICES

**S**ocial Services is an integral part of La Casa. Families who are in need of emergency assistance are able to call or walk into our Broadway Center and receive help. These services consist of counseling, housing services, relocation assistance, emergency foods, referrals to DYFS for children's services, legal and/or immigration assistance. Our staff is well experienced in the provision of these services. Over the years the agency has successfully developed a strong linkage with a wide range of institutions concerned with servicing families in need.





## SENIORS

The Seniors represent wisdom. That is why La Casa takes pride in the Senior Citizens' Center.

Established in 1980 as Essex County's first Hispanic Senior Citizens Center, La Casa provides its elderly residents with a comprehensive network of social, recreational and nutritional services.

The Center serves approximately 45 seniors, most of whom are Hispanic. A completely bi-lingual staff is on hand to help the seniors take advantage of the appropriate outside services and opportunities.

This year's activities include: health screening, exercise classes, conferences on nutrition, sewing classes, cultural activities at Newark Symphony Hall, arts & crafts exhibits, co-sponsorship of the annual Statewide Conference for The Hispanic Aged, a trip to the circus and other excursions.

The Senior Citizens' Nutrition program serves well-balanced meals. A variety of typical Hispanic and continental dishes are prepared daily.

La Casa is a place of refuge for the elderly, a place to discover their fullest potential, a place to share their wisdom; it is home.



## CUBAN-HAITIAN ENTRANT PROGRAM

The new wave of Cuban and Haitian refugees created the need for the development of the Cuban-Haitian Entrant program (CHEP).

The people serviced are multi-problem clients who have language, job skills deficiencies and adjustment difficulties. Cuban entrants are primarily single males between the ages of 21 to 65.

The CHEP program offers job placement, career counseling, immigration assistance and English classes. Services were provided to over 70 refugees during this past year.

We are committed to try to eliminate as much unemployment among the Hispanic community as possible.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Established in 1978, the *Lower Broadway Community Development Project* (LBCDP) focuses its efforts on community education, advocacy, crime prevention and economic development activities. While most of La Casa's programs are targeted toward specific age groups, the LBCDP involves the entire community. The project organizes people to resolve such problems as arson, displacement and relocation, neighborhood deterioration and poor housing conditions. The project publishes a bilingual newspaper. *El Noticiero* contains informative and educational material for community residents.

The LBCDP *Crime Prevention Program* offers assistance in Neighborhood Block Watch organizing, adult literacy training and crime prevention workshops. The program publishes a bilingual newsletter,



*Ojo en La Comunidad/Eye on the Community* with selective news on crime prevention.

The LBCDP *Housing Services Program*, initiated in mid-1985, consists of tenant counseling, organization of tenant associations, tenants' rights workshops; relocation assistance, referral services and advocacy concerning changes in housing policies at city and state levels.

## THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME CONTINUES IN LOWER BROADWAY

Placing an emphasis on community participation, and the need for the community to share the responsibility for crime prevention, La Casa sponsors a Community Advisory Council bringing together new block watch groups, reviving already

existing groups, and implementing new groups where youth become involved in community work. One of the successful new projects is at Stone Street and Bloomfield Avenue where the younger members of the Stone Street Block Watch Association created a mural.

La Casa hosts monthly community workshops and meetings on crime and security as well as organizing meetings with block associations.

The Block Associations play an active role in crime prevention while at the same time they complement La Casa's home security inspection project.

The program's main objective is to establish strong community networks that help reduce crime and improve living conditions for the residents in the Lower Broadway Community.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

La Casa is committed to create programs that are responsive to the area's economic decline. To carry out this goal, La Casa has taken several initiatives during 1985. Through its newly established *Housing and Economic Development Unit* La Casa hopes to provide affordable housing, a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities for families of low and moderate income residing in the Lower Broadway target area.



## NEWARK LATIN AMERICAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

In early 1985, La Casa established the *Latin American Federal Credit Union*. It is the only Hispanic-oriented institution able to provide low interest loans, saving plans, educational information on financial planning and low cost banking services to its North Ward residents. Since its inception, NLAFCU has grown to a membership of 175 families. Loans have been administered to over 25 members for such reasons as college tuition payments, family emergencies, debt consolidation and home improvement. The long term goals of the NLAFCU are to provide housing mortgage loans as well as small business loans to the community.







### THE ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION HOUSING PROJECT

La Casa was recently accepted as a member of The Enterprise Foundation network; a national non-profit corporation whose goal is to develop the capacity of community groups to build low income housing. La Casa, in collaboration with the Enterprise Foundation, will be developing 40-50 low income housing units scheduled for completion in 1987.

### WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

La Casa de Don Pedro recently received a grant from the Department of Community Affairs to provide weatherization assistance to Essex County residents.

A total of 117 units occupied by low-income families, senior citizens and the handicapped will be weatherized at no cost to the tenants or their landlords.

These measures will help to increase the energy efficiency level of those units serviced and assist citizens in meeting their high fuel bills.

The program will be implemented out of a satellite office located at 176 Edison Place in Newark.

### THE 81-83 MT. PROSPECT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

La Casa has currently undertaken the renovation and conversion of a vacant three-story industrial building. The 81-83 Mount Prospect structure is being rehabilitated into a seven unit residential facility for sale as condominiums to moderate income families. We have received an interest-free loan from the Department of Community Affairs to complete the design phase of the project. Furthermore, we anticipate the receipt of a grant from the city to reduce the unit cost to an affordable price for moderate income families.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

**T**his year proved to be significant in La Casa's efforts to strengthen its infrastructure. Through self-study, La Casa was able to identify weaknesses in policies and administrative areas. Strengthening these areas as well as initiating new ones has made 1985 a very productive year. Thanks to a committed staff, a strong Board of Directors and countless community volunteers, the following are some of the accomplishments:

### BOARD DEVELOPMENT

La Casa's Board of Directors' reorganization and expansion includes professionals from the law field as well as the business and government sectors. Its major thrust for the coming year includes long range planning, exploring new funding opportunities and strengthening the agency's administrative capability.

### COMPUTER CAPABILITY

Since 1984, La Casa has been incorporating computers into all aspects of its programs. This year we computerized our fiscal office and continue to explore ways to effectively train staff interested in the use of computers for program needs.

### ADVOCACY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

La Casa has been instrumental in initiating actions or issues of concern involving the needs of Newark's North Ward neighborhood. This has been accomplished by participating in public hearings, organizing community forums, responding to the press and meeting with government officials to address both policies and practices that severely impact New Jersey's growing Hispanic Community.

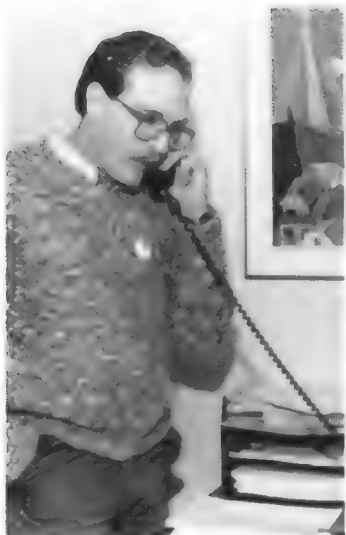


## FUNDRAISING

Over the years La Casa has been very successful in securing funds from a wide range of private and public sources. This year's budget increased to one million dollars. However, as federal cuts continue to loom over domestic programs, La Casa needs to explore other fundraising methods and opportunities.

## MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

1985 marks the initiation of La Casa's first staff retreat. Community issues affecting the agency's resources were explored. As federal cuts reduce vital government services, the demand for emergency assistance and other services fall on community based organizations. The retreat gave the staff the opportunity to partake in the agency's planning process and address the increasing needs for social services.



## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

**D**uring the past fourteen years, La Casa has grown from an experimental youth program into a vital community institution responding to the needs of local residents. The following are highlights of La Casa's development since 1971.

- 1971** - Founding members organize ten families to meet at 75 Park Avenue, Newark, to discuss the neighborhood's overall need for improvement.
- 1972** - La Casa is named after Don Pedro Albizu Campos, a Puerto Rican political leader, and incorporates as La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc.
- 1973** - *Familias Unidas*, the state's first bi-lingual bi-cultural Day Care Center, is funded, providing services at 34 Bloomfield Avenue in Newark.
- 1974** - La Casa receives state government funding for *Juveniles in Need of Supervision* program to begin its youth component.
  - La Casa is funded by the Victoria Foundation. (The first major foundation grant.)
- 1976** - Ramon Rivera is recruited as Executive Director for Neighborhood Ministries.
- 1979** - *Familias Unidas Day Care Center* merges with La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc.
- 1980** - The U.S. Department of Justice (L.E.A.A.) funds La Casa to provide services for delinquent youth (First Federal Grant.)
- 1981** - 75 Park Avenue site is purchased from American Baptist Churches of New Jersey for \$50,000 (presently used for the Day Care Center, Senior Citizens Services and its administrative offices.)
  - La Casa's bi-lingual newspaper, *El Noticiero del Barrio*, is initiated.





1982 - 21-23 Broadway site purchased for \$85,000. (Presently used for its Youth programs, the Lower Broadway Community Development project and Social Services.)

1983 - 81-83 Mount Prospect Avenue site is received as a donation. (La Casa will be converting this factory warehouse into seven affordable housing units partially funded by the Department of Community Affairs.)

-Eisenhower Foundation funds La Casa's anti-crime program. (First National Foundation)

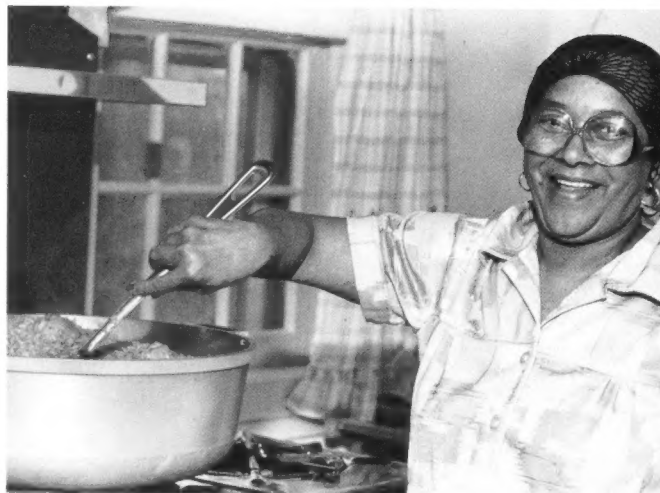
1984 - 176 Roseville Avenue site is purchased for \$25,000. (Presently provides residential shelter for youth in crisis.)

-La Casa sponsors The Newark Latin American Federal Credit Union.

1985 -La Casa reaches a budget of over one million dollars, employs 60 persons and provides services to over 3,000 residents.

-La Casa initiates a comprehensive Economic Development and Housing revitalization unit, while continuing to expand its traditional social services programs.

-La Casa is accepted as a member of the Enterprise Foundation network and will be responsible for the development of 40-50 low income housing units.



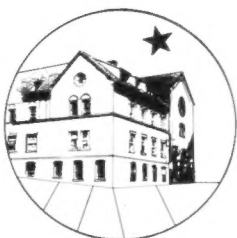
# HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc., is a tax-exempt organization and all contributions are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

To make cash contributions, simply send a personal check to La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc. at 75 Park Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104. Unless otherwise restricted, all donations will go to our general operating fund.

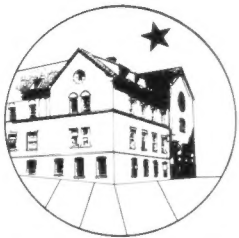
**Bequests.** You can also support La Casa by including us in your will. A suggested form for such a bequest is:

I give and bequest \_\_\_\_\_ (sum or property) to La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey with headquarters at 75 Park Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104, to be used towards the development of La Casa's many programs.



*Design* Three to Make Ready Graphics/Maggie Block  
*Photography* Linda Harris  
*Typography* First Galley Typography  
*Printing* Prudential Insurance Company of America





**La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc.**

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Newark, New Jersey 07104

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